

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the pending Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 4-6, 9-12, and 16-17, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Freadman '942 in view of Virva '988; and rejected claims 7, 14, and 15, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Freadman '942 in view of Virva '988 and Freadman '708.

By this Amendment, independent claims 4, 14, and 15 have been amended for form and clarity and no new matter has been added. Therefore, claims 4-7, 9-12, and 14-17 are currently presented for examination, of which claims 4, 14, and 15 are independent. Support for the instant amendments is provided throughout the Specification.

Applicant traverses the §103 rejections for the following reasons:

I. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103.

As noted above, independent claim 4, as amended, now positively recites, *inter alia*, a pair of speaker units, left and right, located in the ***closed space of the casing***, each of the speaker units including a ***cabinet arranged in the closed space of the casing***, a speaker arranged in the cabinet and exposed to the outside of the cabinet, a port which is defined in the cabinet to directly open to the closed space of the casing and through which a ***sound emitted from the backside of the speaker into the cabinet is radiated outward from the cabinet and into the closed space of the casing***, and a duct which is arranged in the cabinet and defines a tortuous passage that communicates the rear of the speaker with the port . . . the ***speaker being located in the cabinet*** so as to be exposed to the outside of the casing through the opening of the casing and the protrusion, ***and the casing having openings through which sounds emitted from the ports of the cabinets into the closed space of the casing and synthesized together in the closed space of the casing are radiated to the outside of the casing.***

These features are amply supported and described by the embodiments disclosed throughout the written description. (See, Originally-Filed Specification: page pages 7-9, Figures 8 and 9). By way of illustration, the disclosed embodiments provide a configuration in which the casing defines a closed space and contains electronic components within the space. The speaker units are located within the closed space of the casing and ***the cabinet of each speaker unit is located in the closed space of the casing.*** The cabinet has a top face, which is in contact with an inner surface of an outside wall of the casing, and a protrusion, which protrudes from the top face and passes through an opening defined in the outside wall of the casing. The ***port*** in the cabinet ***directly opens into the closed space of the casing without being exposed in the outer surface of the casing.*** And, a duct is arranged in the cabinet and defines a tortuous passage that communicates the rear of the speaker with the port.

The disclosed embodiments further provide that, in operation, high-, medium-, and low-pitched sounds are emitted from the front side of the speakers and ***radiated directly outward from the casing.*** However, ***low-pitched sounds that are emitted from the backside of the speakers*** into the cabinets are ***radiated from the ports into the closed space of the casing in phase with the sounds emitted from the front of the speakers.*** Since low-pitched sounds have low directivity, the low-pitched sounds that are emitted from the speaker units into ***the closed space of the casing are synthesized together in the closed space of the casing.*** The resultant sound vibrates the whole casing and is partially radiated to the outside of the casing through openings or various gaps. Thus, the bass range can be enhanced to reproduce rich low-pitched sounds or voices.

With this said, Applicant submits that none of the asserted references, whether taken alone or in reasonable combination, remotely suggest each and every element of claim 4 including, for example, the features identified above.

In particular, Applicant points out that Freadman '942 specifically teaches a configuration in which the cabinets 22 of speakers 10 are not located in the closed space 30 of the casing and, it is in the closed space 30 that sounds emitted from the speakers 10 are synthesized. In other words, none of the cabinets 22 are located within closed space 30.

In so doing, there is nothing in Freadman '942 that suggests that the cabinet including its speaker is located *within the closed space of the casing*. Nor does Freadman '942 remotely suggest that sounds emitted from the port of the cabinet into the closed space of the casing are *synthesized in the closed space and then radiated outside the casing*.

As such, Freadman '942 clearly fails to suggest a pair of speaker units, left and right, located in the *closed space of the casing*, each of the speaker units including a *cabinet arranged in the closed space of the casing* . . . a port which is defined in the cabinet to directly open to the closed space of the casing and through which a *sound emitted from the backside of the speaker into the cabinet is radiated outward from the cabinet and into the closed space of the casing*, as required by claim 4.

Freadman '942 also fails to suggest the *speaker being located in the cabinet* so as to be exposed to the outside of the casing through the opening of the casing and the protrusion, *and the casing having openings through which sounds emitted from the ports of the cabinets into the closed space of the casing and synthesized together in the closed space of the casing are radiated to the outside of the casing*, as also required by claim 4.

Applicant further submits that none of the remaining references, namely Virva '988 and Freadman '708, cure the deficiencies of Freadman '942 noted above. For example, Freadman '708 discloses that sounds emitted from speaker 10 are radiated outside a casing 12 directly through a duct 44 or 42, as apparent from Figs. 3 and 4.

With this configuration, *no* sounds are emitted from the port of a cabinet of the speaker or synthesized in the closed space in the casing 12. Furthermore, like Freadman '942, Freadman '708 fails to suggest the cabinet and speaker is located *within the closed space of the casing* and that sounds emitted from the port of the cabinet into the closed space of the casing are *synthesized in the closed space and then radiated outside the casing*.

Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 4 is clearly patentable over the asserted references. And, because claims 5-7, 9-12, and 16-17 depend on claim 4,

claims 5-7, 9-12, and 16-17 are patentable at least by virtue of dependency as well as for their additional recitations.

Moreover, because independent claims 14-15 recite similar patentable features as claim 4, claims 14-15 are patentable for at least similar reasons as claim 4. Accordingly, the immediate withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Having addressed each of the foregoing rejections, it is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

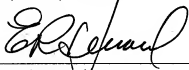
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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